



From the NIFA Communications Office

## NIFA in the News – Week of July 29, 2013

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### **NIFA Headlines**

USDA Blog: [NIFA Grant Addresses Climate Issues Related to Beef Cattle Production](#)

### **In the News**

**Global food security: Clemson researcher sounding alarm about expanding crop production (The Times and Democrat 7/29).** A commentary in the science journal "Nature" released July 4 calls for a worldwide plan to "mine" the vast biodiversity of plants to grow enough food to feed a world population that will reach nine billion people by midcentury. Clemson University population genetics researcher Amy Lawton-Rauh is among the scientists in the commentary urging that time is running out to meet food security goals. Food security and agricultural innovation, ranging from new crops to the Intelligent Farm initiative, are sizable research initiatives at Clemson. The Clemson University Experiment Station is part of a nationwide system of scientists working to improve the quality of life. More than 100 scientists and support staff work on more than 110 projects funded through state, federal and other sources. Researchers have produced more than 100 new varieties of food and fiber crops and 50 patents. Experiment Station research is funded by the state and by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). [Link](#)

**NMC-CREES survey on CNMI agriculture (Saipan Tribune 7/30).** The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service's is conducting a survey for local farmers, ranchers, and agriculture professionals in order to gather information

regarding agriculture in the CNMI. The objective of the survey is to help NMC-CREES determine discussion topics and issues for an upcoming conference on sustainable agricultural infrastructure in Pacific islands being served by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The conference will be hosted by the USDA-NIFA Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, which is a competitive grants program that funds research and education projects in nine Western states, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the CNMI. [Link](#)

**Study to Offer clearer picture of kids' food choices (The Garden City Telegram 7/30)** Tanda Kidd, an associate professor in human nutrition at Kansas State University and a K-State Research and Extension nutrition specialist, has earned a five-year, \$2.5 million grant to study eating habits using a community-based participatory research model with sixth through eighth grade youth in limited-resource communities. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Food Research Initiative. Her goal is to engage research teams to work with youth, parents, school officials, Extension agents, and others involved in providing youth programs and services to identify barriers that stand between youth, healthy food choices and an active lifestyle. [Link](#)

**To beat stem rust, wheat crops get new gene (Futurity.org 7/30)** Scientists have found a gene in wild wheat that could make commercial wheat varieties resistant to a new strain of stem rust. The stem rust disease is producing large wheat yield losses throughout Africa and Asia and threatening global food security. The study is part of the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative, a five-year effort funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to coordinate international efforts in fighting Ug99. It is supported by the US Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

**La. team competes at National 4-H Forestry Invitational (The Daily News 7/31)** Louisiana was one of 13 state teams that competed in the 34th annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational from Sun-day, July 21, through Thursday, July 25. While at the Invitational, 4-H members competed for overall team and individual awards in several categories. Events included tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, insect and disease identification, topographic map use, forest evaluation, the forestry bowl and a written forestry exam. Operated by the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the state land grant universities, 4-H is a youth education program. More than six million youth, 540,000 volunteers and 3,500 professionals participate in 4-H nationwide, and nearly 100,000 are part of the 4-H Forestry

Program. [Link](#)

**YNDC gets federal grant for city food programs (Youngstown News 7/31).** U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan announced that Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corp. is the recipient of a \$296,816 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The grant, part of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Community Food Project, will be used to teach food entrepreneurship in the city. The program's goals are to help meet the food needs of low-income people and increase self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs, said Ryan of Niles, D-13th. [Link](#)